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State of Illinois  
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor



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# Guide To Career Choices

## Architecture & Construction

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*A brief look at:*

MAY 25 2010

- jobs
- education and training requirements
- wages
- outlook

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[www.ILWorkInfo.com](http://www.ILWorkInfo.com)

# architecture & construction

guide no. 2

ENTRY : the mean (average) of the bottom third of wages in an occupation

MEDIAN : half of the workers in the occupation earn more than this wage; half earn less

EXPERIENCED : the mean of the top two-thirds of wages in an occupation

HS : High School diploma or equivalent

AD : Associate Degree of Arts/Science  
community college, 2 years

BA/BS : Bachelor of Arts/Science degree  
colleges/universities, 4 years

Career Opportunities	OUTLOOK		ANNUAL WAGES			Education & Training
	2014 Employment	Annual Openings	Entry	Median	Experienced	
Carpenters	56,741	1,394	\$30,330	\$51,950	\$61,093	A high school diploma or its equivalent is recommended and is required for apprenticeships. Skilled craft workers learn their trades either through informal training on the job, vocational education schools or through formal apprenticeship programs. Although apprenticeships generally provide the most thorough training, the majority of workers in certain trades, such as carpenters and roofers, acquire their skills informally. Apprenticeship programs are sponsored jointly by local trade union and employers. Lasting from two to five years, they include both on-the-job training and at least 144 hours of classroom instruction annually. Whether one learns the trade on the job or through an apprenticeship program, previous training is helpful. Secondary or postsecondary courses in shop, mathematics, mechanical drawing, and blueprint reading are good preparation. Some construction trades, such as plumbers and electricians must be licensed.
Electricians	32,982	944	\$39,472	\$57,227	\$66,565	
Plumbers	24,314	823	\$36,442	\$64,832	\$73,080	
Brickmasons and Blockmasons	10,347	264	\$40,299	\$59,293	\$63,567	
Structural Iron and Steel Workers	4,396	137	\$46,787	\$65,930	\$72,327	
Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers	4,006	114	\$29,445	\$47,104	\$57,448	
Surveyors	1,552	63	\$28,274	\$47,649	\$58,726	HS; skills are learned on the job or in trade or vocational schools.
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	57,919	1,427	\$23,291	\$36,858	\$45,585	
Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	8,989	268	\$26,406	\$40,790	\$53,140	Technical school/apprenticeship is preferred. Programs last from six months to two years and are widely available.
Architects, Except Landscape and Naval	7,396	173	\$47,053	\$66,614	\$85,901	A five-year Bachelor of Architecture degree, a three-year internship and licensing exam.
Architectural and Civil Drafters	3,536	100	\$27,604	\$39,710	\$47,578	AD from a technical institute or community college, or courses in engineering, architecture and mathematics offered by college extension divisions. Private technical institutes also offer drafting programs, which vary in both length and the kinds of courses offered. Students should select programs carefully.

Occupational growth rates and job opening data are based on All-Industry projections through the year 2014.

Wage data cover full-time, part-time and seasonal employees but exclude temporary and contractual workers. Wages include commissions and cost-of-living allowances, but exclude overtime and tips.

# *Job Descriptions*

## *Architects, Except Landscape and Naval*

Plan and design structures, such as private residences, office buildings, theaters, factories, and other structural property.

## *Architectural and Civil Drafters*

Prepare detailed drawings of architectural and structural features of buildings or drawings and topographical relief maps used in civil engineering projects, such as highways, bridges, and public works.

## *Brickmasons and Blockmasons*

Lay and bind building materials, such as brick, structural tile, or other blocks with mortar to construct or repair walls, arches, partitions, and other structures.

## *Carpenters*

Construct, erect, install, or repair structures and fixtures made of wood, such as concrete forms, building frameworks, including partitions, joists, studding, rafters, wood stairways, window and door frames, and hardwood floors.

## *Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers*

Apply plasterboard or other wallboard to ceilings or interior walls of buildings.

## *Electricians*

Install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes.

## *Structural Iron and Steel Workers*

Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks.

## *Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers*

Install or repair heating, central air conditioning, or refrigeration systems, including oil burners and furnaces.

## *Maintenance and Repair Workers, General*

Perform work involving the skills of two or more maintenance or craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair.

## *Plumbers*

Assemble, install, alter, and repair pipelines or pipe systems that carry water, steam, air, or other liquids or gases.

## *Surveyors*

Make exact measurements and determine property boundaries.



## *What is the job outlook?*

Employment in architecture and construction is expected to grow faster than the statewide average through 2014. Employment in nonresidential construction is expected to grow because the replacement and renovation of many industrial plants and buildings has been delayed for years and a large number of structures will have to be replaced or remodeled, particularly in urban areas where space for new buildings is becoming limited. Home improvement and repair construction is expected to continue to grow faster than new home construction. Remodeling should be the fastest growing sector of the housing industry and also tends to be more labor intensive. Job opportunities are expected to be excellent for general maintenance and repair workers, electricians, and carpenters, especially for workers with training and experience in construction occupations.

## *Where can I find more information?*

The Illinois Department of Employment Security offers a wealth of information concerning the Illinois labor market. Visit **www.ILWorkInfo.com** to find out more about:

*Career Planning:* **Illinois Career Resource Network**  
1-877-513-1987  
des.icrn@illinois.gov

*Labor Market Information:* **LMI Source**  
1-866-ONE-SRCE (1-866-663-7723)  
des.lmi@illinois.gov

*Workforce Information:* **Workforce Info Center**  
des.workinfo@illinois.gov

For assistance with employment and training issues, contact your local Illinois Employment and Training Center. Call 1-888-367-4382 to find the location nearest you.



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Sources:  
Illinois Department of Employment Security's  
"Occupational Projections" and "Occupational  
Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau  
of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook."

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